

I CLAIM AS MY INVENTION:

A heart stimulating device comprising:

a pulse generator which emits stimulation pulses of variable energy content;

a stimulation threshold measuring circuit adapted to interact with a subject to which the stimulation pulses are delivered, to measure a stimulation threshold value in the subject;

a timer connected to said stimulation threshold measuring circuit for initiating multiple threshold searches at respective times, said timer varying an interval between successive threshold searches dependent on a result of at least a last-performed threshold search; and

a control unit connected to said pulse generator and to said stimulation threshold measuring circuit for causing said pulse generator to emit said stimulation pulses with an energy content dependent on said stimulation threshold value measured by said stimulation threshold measuring circuit.

2. A heart stimulating device as claimed in claim 1 wherein said timer, if said stimulation threshold value did not change in said last-performed threshold search, increases said interval.

3. A heart stimulating device as claimed in claim 1 wherein said timer, if said stimulation threshold value changed in said last-performed threshold search, decreases said interval.

4. A heart stimulating device as claimed in claim 1 wherein said timer varies said interval by altering a duration of said interval with a preset timed amount.

5. A heart stimulating device as claimed in claim 1 wherein said timer varies said interval by decreasing a duration of said interval by a predetermined percentage of said interval.

6. A heart stimulating device as claimed in claim 1 wherein said timer is limited to a maximum duration for said interval of one month.

7. A heart stimulating device as claimed in claim 1 wherein said timer is limited to a minimum duration of said interval of one hour.

8. A heart stimulating device as claimed in claim 1 wherein said stipulation threshold measuring circuit also makes loss of capture-initiated threshold searches and at wherein said timer uses all loss of capture-initiated threshold searches, during said interval, to vary said interval, in addition to said threshold searches initiated by said timer.

9. A heart stimulating device as claimed in claim 8 wherein said timer increases said interval if the respective stimulation threshold values, before and after each loss of capture-initiated threshold search, are equal.

10. A heart stimulating device as claimed in claim 8 wherein said timer decreases said interval if the respective stimulation threshold values before and after any loss of capture-initiated search are not equal.

11. A heart stimulating device as claimed in claim 1 wherein said timer maintains said interval at a duration shorter than or equal to a predetermined interval, for a predetermined time period after a change of said stimulation threshold value.

12. A heart stimulating device as claimed in claim 11 wherein said timer employs an interval of eight hours as said predetermined interval.

13. A heart stimulating device as claimed in claim 11 wherein said timer employs a duration of at least one week as said predetermined time period.